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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA

Strengthening of Health Services in Newly Industrialized Areas (West Bank of the Irrawaddy River) (BUR/74/026)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of Present approval:	December 1978
Starting date of project activities:	December 1979 (Excluding previous preparatory assistance in 1975)
Planned completion date:	March 1981
To be executed by:	World Health Organization (WHO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Health (Ministry of Health)
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	\$396 400
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The west bank of the Irrawaddy River is an area of rapid industrial growth. Petroleum and natural gas have been found in this zone and a number of industrial establishments based on these products have been set up. It is expected that the west bank will become the industrial heartland of Burma.
2. As a consequence of the industrial expansion in the area, the population and labour force are expected to grow at a rate higher than average. To date, however, the health and social welfare facilities for workers and their families living on the west bank have not kept pace with the demands generated by the demographic and industrial growth in the area. The Government intends, therefore, to mount a programme of comprehensive health services for workers and their families including occupational health, environmental

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of \$250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

sanitation, preventive and curative facilities, and primary health care in factories.

3. In 1975 a WHO team visited Burma to review the Government's proposals for the Irrawaddy health project. Because of the financial difficulties of UNDP at that time, an immediate follow-up to the mission's recommendations for external assistance was not possible.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The project will concentrate on three newly industrialized areas which fall within eight of the twenty townships on the west bank. The total population of these eight townships is estimated to be 1,175,100 people. Its objectives are to: (a) provide in an integrated manner, curative, preventive, disability/rehabilitative, referral and health information services for the workers and their families in the industrial areas together with a system of periodic medical examinations of factory workers; (b) develop occupational health services for industrial workers and measures for industrial hygiene and safety; (c) establish laboratory facilities in support of the general medical and health services in the project area which will also permit the periodic testing of water, pollutant and effluent samples; (d) advise on environmental sanitation and water supply; and (e) provide in-service and overseas training for medical and health workers.

III. Inputs

4. Under the assistance now approved, UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency: consultants in industrial hygiene, sanitary engineering and chemistry, maintenance of instruments, toxicology; administrative support personnel; fellowships; laboratory equipment and supplies; two X-Ray plant; physiotherapy equipment; occupational health instruments; four ambulances and other vehicles; office equipment and supplies; library and reference materials; and miscellaneous costs.

5. To carry out the activities for which assistance is approved, the Government will make available: a national project manager and counterpart personnel to the internationally recruited consultants; administrative and technical support staff; the local costs of training activities; locally available expendable and non-expendable supplies and equipment; buildings for laboratories, dispensaries and offices; and miscellaneous costs for operating and maintenance charges.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	<u>Previously approved</u>	<u>Present approval</u>	<u>Total approval</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
International personnel	1 200	80 300	81 500
Fellowships	-	78 300	78 300
Equipment	-	219 200	219 200
Miscellaneous	-	18 600	18 600
	<u>1 200</u>	<u>396 400</u>	<u>397 600</u>

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is \$512,300 in kind.